



Department of Justice

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Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007
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WISCONSIN MAN SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Career Sexual Offender Receives Maximum Sentence

MADISON, WISCONSIN - A man who has twice been convicted of sexually assaulting a child was sentenced to 40 years in federal prison today for distributing child pornography, U.S. Attorney Erik C. Peterson for the Western District of Wisconsin announced today. Mark Bergmann, 39, of Johnson Creek, Wis., pleaded guilty in September to this charge.

An investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed that Bergmann sent an unsolicited image of child pornography to an individual in Minnesota during a Yahoo! chat room discussion on June 11, 2007. A subsequent search of Bergmann's Johnson Creek apartment lead to the recovery of additional child pornography videos and still images.

A separate investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement revealed that Bergmann had exchanged large amounts of child pornography images and videos with an individual in Nebraska.

Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb commented during sentencing on the horrific nature of the images possessed by Bergmann, some of which depicted sexual violence against children as young as six months old.

Bergmann has two prior state convictions in Wisconsin for sexual assault of a child and admitted during his recent confession that he fantasizes sexually about small children while looking at child pornography and continually struggles with his urges to touch small children.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The charges against Bergmann were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Johnson Creek Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith P. Duchemin.

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